



Christmas Musical Spirit

Congratulations to Rebekah Green, Treshon & Taevon James, Ethan Lappin, Molly Dornan-Moreland and Alex Allen who performed in the EA Music Service Christmas Concert in the Ulster Hall this week.

Parking Arrangements

Thank you to everyone for adhering to and respecting our new parking procedures in school. I am beginning to feel happier about the movement of vehicles within our grounds. There is some work yet to be done outside of our gates and I ask for your continued support as we try to make our community a safer place.

Disappointing News

Sadly, our school has been the target of vandalism over the last week. We had a number of windows broken and glass bottles smashed around the site. I am grateful to the staff for dealing with these events so promptly in order to ensure no-one was hurt.

I am asking for your assistance in the coming weeks and months. If you see any unusual activity on our grounds late in the evening or at night, please report it to the PSNI by dialling 101. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary in December

SCHOOL CLOSED TOMORROW Thursday 12th December as we are a polling station for the UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Monday 16th December will be a full-day rehearsal for all of the choir and instrumentalists involved in the Carol Service. Parents should bring their children to **St. Mark's for 9.30am** with their instrument (if applicable), music and a packed lunch. Pupils should be **picked up again at 2.30pm** (in order to facilitate any sibling pickups)

Tuesday 17th December (instruments & music will be required), participating pupils should arrive at **6.30pm** that evening and the actual service starts in **St. Mark's at 7.00pm - We look forward to seeing you there!**

Festive Fitness Fundraiser in aid of PTA funds (18th December)

School Cinema Trip (19th December)

Christmas Jumper/ Festive Non-Uniform Day. Pupils may wear a Christmas jumper, Christmas accessories or something with 'Christmassy' colours of red or green! (20th December)

The Autumn Term concludes on **Friday 20th December at 12.15 p.m.** (P1 will be released at 12.10p.m to help ease congestion)

School will begin again on **Monday 6th January 2020** at the normal time of 8.45 a.m

Parent-Teacher Association

Festive Friday is happening this Friday!

Hot chocolate will be available for purchase at £1.00 (shortbread 25p)

We also will be having our famous 'Washing Line' with fabulous prizes to be won. Including:

- A night off written homework!
- An opportunity to wear your slippers in class for the day!
- A treat bag!
- Someone will even win extra play-time for their whole class!!!

SWAP Club

From Monday 9th December, those **attending SWAP Club** will be dismissed from the **front door of the school at 2.55pm.**

Dealing with Parental Concerns

May I take this opportunity to remind everyone of the correct means for raising a concern in our school.

- If it relates to an issue in the classroom, please discuss it with the classroom teacher in the first instance. An appointment can be made via the School Office.
- If your concern is of a more serious nature, you may wish to make contact with one of our Key Stage Leaders. Mrs Langley in Foundation Stage, Mr Watson in Key Stage 1 or Mrs Simpson in Key Stage 2. Again, as these members of staff have a full-time teaching commitment, please make contact via the School Office.
- If you are anxious about a matter involving the well-being of our pupils, our Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Simpson. Our Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Langley.
- If the concern relates to other serious matters in school, these concerns should be directed to myself as Principal.

More information on our policy for dealing with concerns can be found on our school website.

Health & Safety

Anyone wishing to speak to a member of our staff MUST do it through our school office. For safeguarding reasons, we must insist that this is adhered to by everyone.
No-one should attempt to gain access through any other door.

Due to the on-going concern we are having with cars parking in a way which jeopardises the safety of pedestrians we are currently reviewing our procedures in and around school.

After consultation with the PSNI and some of our local residents we have modified our procedures.

Please take time to read these new procedures carefully as it will help reduce the prospect of anyone being seriously hurt or worse! As I have said before, **our children come first!**

Best wishes,



G Bennett
Principal

PLEASE READ BELOW FOR NEW PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

New Parking Arrangements Inside Newtownards Model Primary School

As stated in previous Parent Newsletters, we have a genuine concern for our pupils and staff at the school due to unsafe parking practices from those picking up pupils.

A new barrier has been set up to restrict access to the STAFF CAR PARK.

There are TWO DISABLED CAR PARKING BAYS, **once these are full please park legally on Scrabo Road or in the car park adjacent to the cinema/ McDonalds.**

The third bay is available for visitors to use.



In the interests of respect, if you are parked in one of our disabled bays, then **your DISABLED PERMIT should be displayed clearly on the dashboard of your vehicle.**

Please note that 'Blue Badges' must only be displayed if the holder is travelling in the vehicle as a driver or passenger and making use of this parking concession.

If there are no bays available, then **NO-ONE IS PERMITTED TO PARK ON THE RED AREA**
(shown in the photo above)

This blocks access for emergency response vehicles in the event of critical incident.

Staff will be monitoring the situation and if the new procedures are not followed then do not be offended when you are politely asked to move your vehicle.